

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 /025 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/F BMHENDERSON

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OPIC/ID;GCOOPER

EB/IFD/OIA:DHSTEBBING

AF/S:WEATON

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R 162158Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: SUA PAN SODA ASH PROJECT

REF: GABORONE 0767

1. HOLT WROTE PERM SEC MINING GOALATHE JUNE 10 REGARDING STATUS PROJECT. GULF HAS COMPLETED EVALUATION ENGINEERING DATA AND JUDGES PROJECT FEASIBLE. HAS COMMISSIONED MARKET-ING STUDY TO SEE IF LARGER PRODUCTION VOLUMES CONSIDERED NECESSARY FOR ATTRACTIVE RETURN CAN BE COMPETITIVELY MARKETED. IF REPORT POSITIVE, GULF WILL BE READY TO TALK TURKEY WITH GOB. IDEALLY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TEST BORINGS AT DEPOSIT BEFORE HEAVY RAINS NOVEMBER, BUT NOT PREPARED TO COMMIT FUNDS UNLESS PARAMETERS OF PROJECT CAN BE SATISFAC-TORILY NEGOTIATED BEFOREHAND.

2. OPIC QUERIES WHETHER GOB READY TO NEGOTIATE. OPIC JUDGES GULF KEENLY INTERESTED IN PURSUING PROJECT AND WILL-ING TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ONCE MARKET STUDY FINISHED (30 DAYS). OPIC ALSO SATISFIED THAT GULF HAS CAPABILITY (BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) TO UNDERTAKE PROJECT. OPIC HAS

REASON TO BELIEVE PROLONGED FISHING FOR OTHER INVESTORS BY
GOB WILL REPEAT WILL TURN GULF OFF.

3. OPIC ALSO QUERIES WHETHER ANY PROBLEM IN GOB OBTAINING
SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROJECT.

4. GULF IS DESIROUS OF MEETING MINING OFFICIALS DURING
VISIT. FACE TO FACE MEETINGS WILL BE IMPORTANT PRELUDE TO
NEGOTIATIONS. WILL VISITORS BE ABLE VISIT GULF OFFICES
HOUSTON OR SALT LAKE?

5. SINCE OPIC WILL BE ORGANIZING PROJECT FINANCING AND
PROVIDING INSURANCE, VISIT BY MINOFFS TO OPIC ALSO
REQUESTED. DECONTROL JUNE 13, 1976. KISSINGER

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